

# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### ***E4X Palestine—2010***

*By Antonio Gonzalez, EA5RM*

AA4ZZ	Paul Trotter	President
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K8YC	John Scott	Editor

Shortly after we finished 9X0R, our DXpedition to Rwanda, I began to pay attention to the Tifariti Gang's next project. After speaking to Fabrizio, IN3ZNR on our possible targets, we agreed to try Palestine, which due to its complicated socio-political situation was very



The E4X Team poses atop their hotel knowing they've met their goals and were producing a record-breaking effort on 6 meters. In the back row, second and third people from the right are author Antonio Gonzalez (EA5RM) and CDXA member Fabrizio Vedovelli (IN3ZNR), respectively.

rare on the bands and stood high in the most needed countries list.

As we began our first steps at the end of 2008, we found that an Italian group had been working on an E4 project for a year already and was going to deploy an operation from Bethlehem at the beginning of

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#### **CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems**

K4MD (AR V.4 Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com:23
K4MD (AR V.6 Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com:7373
W4DXA (AR V.6 Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com:23
W3GQ (CC Cluster via Telnet)	w3gq.no-ip.com:7373
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

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2009. We decided to postpone our plans until after this event. In September 2009 and with the help of Giorgio, IZ4AKS, I travelled to Italy to meet Mr. Shoby, a Palestinian who would support us within the West Bank and be the key man in the organization of our plans. After the interview with Mr. Shoby our project really started.

Due to the difficult situation in that part of the world there were many problems to overcome. I decided to make a trip to Palestine and Israel in October 2009 to get the ham license and to set up the necessary logistics and support. On the 19th of October I arrived in Tel Aviv. I soon became familiar with the Israeli checkpoints along the Palestinian border. Promptly on the first morning I proceeded to the Ministry of Telecommunications in Ramallah, the administrative capital of the Palestinian National Authority. Arriving at the Ministry, after passing the rigorous Palestinian security due to the proximity of the Prime Minister's residence, I was interviewed by the officer in charge of radio authorizations. He was very friendly and promised to help in every way he could. Once I had learned the procedure to obtain the license the following step was to find a good location from which to operate—free of the heavy electrical noise that had been a problem for the last two operations from the West Bank. It took several days in Beit Jala and Bethlehem to locate what was going to be the site of our station, situated just five minutes walk from the Nativity Church in Bethlehem.

With E4X's papers in my pocket and the mission fulfilled, I returned to Spain, but not before having the experience of boarding in Ben Gurion International airport. There I underwent two unexpected interrogations while waiting for check-in, followed by a third interview at the counter lasting one hour and forty five minutes, while all my personal belongings were passed through explosives inspection, scanners, and a comprehensive manual inspection. More than luckily I passed all the examinations, and my suitcase boarded. I managed to carry on my two HF radios and a power supply as hand luggage. In spite of nobody asking anything about the rigs, for months I had bad dreams about that Tel Aviv boarding, since it was by no means clear what would happen when boarding a group of ten people loaded with "sensitive stuff".

In Madrid, with the aid of EA4ATA and EC4JD of *Proyecto4*, we sorted and packed all the equipment, including the antennas. (See photo, right.) On May 26<sup>th</sup> the team members—comprised of EA2RY, EA5FX, EA7AJR, EA7KW, F5CWU, F6ENO, F9IE, IN3ZNR and EA5RM—gathered in Madrid and were briefed with travelling instructions and operating procedures.

### The Pileup

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The purpose of the Association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of associating with persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the Association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Ray Weeks, N4APR  
3017 Cutchin Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28210

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: [rweeks1@carolina.rr.com](mailto:rweeks1@carolina.rr.com).



One of our main targets was to work North America, and more specifically the West Coast, from where our pilots K6GNX and W6ENZ would advise us the best times of propagation to our area, as well as any unexpected openings. Another priority was the 6 meter band, which previously had seen almost no activity from Palestine. We hoped that with the help of band specialist EA7KW we

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would make many contacts. We had chosen operating dates as a compromise to fit inside the best of the Sporadic E season and to exploit our chances on the low bands.

At dusk on May 27<sup>th</sup> we arrived in Tel Aviv. 4Z5LA and 4X6HP were at the airport waiting for us. After greeting our Israeli friends and checking that our entire luggage had arrived safely, we headed for Bethlehem, passing through one of the main checkpoints. Foreigners are not now allowed to enter the West Bank through secondary checkpoints. "Rules have changed, they do every week!" shouted our Palestinian



A welcoming party at Ben Gurion International airport, helped to speed us on our way.

driver. These changes produced some problems for us a few days later.

When we reached our hotel, Pilgrim Residence, we split into two working groups, one to set up the stations, and the other to work on the building roof to install the 30m vertical with elevated radials and assemble the three HF beams. The antenna work was in the dark with strong winds.

At 20:00 hours UTC on the 27<sup>th</sup> F9IE sent the first "CQ de E4X". At last, our nine month's work was paying off! The first night F9IE, F6ENO and EA5FX kept the 30m station running until dawn. The next morning all the crew except the 30m operator raised, in record time, the three HF Yagis (Spiderbeam, HexBeam and BBHexBeam), the vertical for 40m and the seven element 6m Yagi. A little later we hung the 80m and 160m dipoles.

When the antennas were set we organized the operating shifts--two hours in daylight and three hours at night. Immediately things started and everything ran like clockwork. EA7KW was in charge of the 6m band, and if the magic band was dead, he would relieve the HF ops. EA5FX, EA7AJR, F6ENO and F9IE kept the CW pileups busy, while EA2RY filled the gaps in the RTTY segments and F5CWU, IN3ZNR and I worked SSB. The shack was installed in one of the hotel rooms, strategically located to minimize annoyance to the other guests, and to minimize the length of the cables feeding our antennas. Inside the shack we set four stations with linear amplifiers. One was for CW, another SSB, the third for RTTY and the fourth was the 6m station. We also set up a fifth station, running 100 watts with an Elecraft K3. This radio impressed us all with its

high yield and performance, making us think about using it in the future to replace one of our radios that had previously given us some headaches. Another happy surprise was to find very little interaction between stations, notwithstanding that all the antennas were very close to each other.

During the first days of the operation HF propagation was only fair, in fact we did not have any openings



Border crossings always have an element of uncertainty.

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to the West Coast of the United States until the third dawn, when our pilots phoned me, excited because our signal was starting to pop up in Nevada and California. Right away F9IE at the CW station started to call "West Coast only" and shortly after we had the first W6s and W7s logged. Every morning after this we were happy to log more "Far West" stations on all modes.

Due to the time of year the low bands were only as would be expected. On the other hand, 6m was outstanding. We posted on our website that a beacon would be running on 50.103KHz whenever the band was silent or the operator was busy and we provided a cell phone number to text us with signal report and the station's grid locator wherever we were heard. This system turned out to be very effective, especially to know when our 6m signal was audible in Japan or the most difficult parts of Europe. We had a few of such openings to Asia and in most of them we suffered from a pulse noise covering the whole band, always from the same direction. In the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> a US station came in, out of the blue, mixed with the 50MHz EU pileup. Jose Ramon jumped out of his chair doubting it was genuine. But, quickly a massive pileup of North American stations was packing the DX segment. Seventy-two stations from the East Coast added a "new one" on six. A 4X operator said: "I've been for fifteen years on SIX awaiting for a US run, you arrive here and do it!" Openings with different parts of Europe occurred on a daily basis, and were very strong, making it possible to establish a world record of QSOs for a DXpedition



The banner of the "Tifariti Gang" kept us ever mindful of our goals while operating.



Antenna setup went smoothly on the roof (above), and when finished, we had quite a "farm". Our antennas can be seen below. The 6 meter antenna that served us so well can be seen on the roof parapet at the lower left.



on 50 MHz—a total of 6,545 contacts.

As the days passed our goals were reached, in spite of the increasing lack of discipline displayed by the Southern Europe stations, which created unnecessary QRM for us at any time of the day, even when we called "only JA" or "only NA". Since all the E4X operators had very explicit instructions to not work a single station in Europe while looking outside of it, not one of those stations calling out of turn was ever logged. Sincerely, I believe that there must be something that we can do to solve this problem. After ten years going on expeditions all over the world, I can say that the problem has

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increased during the last few years, and is making some DX stations change their usual operating technique. As we feared this situation, instructions given to the operators in Madrid before our departure to the Holy Land reduced the consequences of this bad practice. Undoubtedly the QSO rate we were able to reach would have been greater if we had not had the continuous stress and loss of time repeating "only North America" or "outside of Europe please" after every QSO and fighting constantly against the deliberate QRM. At last, after ten days that we will never forget, at dawn on June 7<sup>th</sup> the last QSO of the 80,267 was made.

Once all the stations had been torn down we began our journey back to Spain. Straightaway we faced our first checkpoint, in Bethlehem. After almost two hours of inspections and conversation we were allowed into Israeli territory to head to the airport.

We arrived at Ben Gurion International airport three hours in advance of our flight, time enough to pass customs clearances and check in. Inside the airport facility Israeli security picked me out of the group, as team leader, to proceed with the well known interrogation. Twenty minutes of questions and answers followed, then a close inspection of our luggage and all the radio gear. They denied the boarding of two HF transceivers and our four amplifiers. We left about \$20,000 worth of gear behind but not before a long discussion with the security supervisor. We finally boarded with only a paper bar code sticker for each piece of gear retained by the Israeli authorities.

Fortunately, a few days later we recovered everything, without any damage. This episode ended the E4X story.

We've been ramping up our efforts this year, and it wouldn't have been possible without the help of all the volunteers, individuals, clubs and associations who had confidence in us and supported our mission. The E4X operators would like to thank all of them, especially EB5BBM, EA5BZ, EA5RD, EA4TD, EA4ATA, EC4JD, EA7EU, EA7MK, IZ4AKS, 4Z5MU, 4Z5LA, 4X6HP, K6GNX, W6ENZ, NCDXF, INDEXA, URE, **Carolina DX Association**, SWODXA, Proyecto4, UKSMG, Clipperton DXC, GDXF, TCDXA, Eurotours Trips, URE Benidorm, Lynx DX Group, Spiderbeam, Chiltern DXC, Dxcoffee, UFT, LZ3HY QSL print, Western Washington DXC, GM DX Group, Tecatel, URE Manises, URE San Vicente of the Raspeig, Northeast Wisconsin DXA, Tokyo 610 DXG, Greater Milwaukee DXA, Mile-Hi DXA, URE Burriana, Tango Delta, Nippon DXA, BARTG, GDGDXC and F6KOP.

*Antonio Gonzalez* EA5RM – E4X

Translated to English by J. Ramon Hierro, EA7KW

This report was originally published as a report to members of INDEXA. As can be noted in the final comments to this DXpedition report of 2010, The Carolina DX Association was a contributing sponsor to this DXpedition to Palestine. One of the operators was CDXA's own Fabrizio "Brix" Vedovelli (IN3ZNR). Brix is a long-time friend of Antonio "Tony" Gonzalez (EA5RM), author of the article. Brix and Tony have been on many DXpeditions together with their group of DX Friends that gave themselves the moniker of "The Tifariti Gang" during their DXpedition to Western Sahara. In addition to Western Sahara (S01R), the DX Friends have given us, Rwanda (9X0R), Sovereign Military Order of Malta (1A0C), Andorra (C37N), South Sudan (ST0R), Republic of the Congo (5U5R), San Andreas (5J0R), and recently Galapagos Islands (HD8R).

Both Tony and Brix have a "connection" with CDXA because they were provided and wore CDXA T-shirts on the E4X DXpedition. See article on the next page.

(Note: The article below was taken from the July 2010 issue of *The Pileup*. --Editor)

## T-Shirt Mania?

It started simply enough. Every once in a while Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, or Gary Dixon, K4MQG, would come to a CDXA luncheon wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with a large CDXA logo on the chest. Also, Joe has been seen on multiple DXpeditions wearing his T-shirt. There were always some who would ask, "How do I get one of those?"

When asked, Gary said he had them made a number of years ago when someone was going on a DXpedition. To find out if there was any interest, K8YC went out on a limb and ordered 24 assorted sizes to see if they could be sold. All but three were sold within a week. With some confidence, a flyer was produced soliciting orders from the membership. Shortly thereafter, John received and distributed the last of 73 shirts ordered by CDXA members.

Joe Blackwell has always said that a CDXA shirt should be worn by a member while on a DXpedition. With the E4X DXpedition being imminent, two shirts were donated to CDXA member Fabrizio "Brix" Vedovelli and Antonio Gonzalez—co-leaders of the E4X DXpedition team. The CDXA T-shirt was evident in Palestine as pictured below in front of the Palestine Ministry of Post and Telecommunications when Brix and Tony picked up the licenses for their DXpedition operation!



## Dues are due!

This is a reminder that CDXA dues for 2022 are due by December 31, 2021.

Please go to [CDXA.org](http://CDXA.org) and click on the "Join/Renew" button and then select "Renew Membership Only" button or "Join/Renew-with-updates" button.

The site has been updated to reflect the special 2022 renewal dues structure.

Also, when joining or renewing your ARRL membership, please consider using the ARRL Application that allows our club to retain a small portion of your dues as a commission.

Because of reduced CDXA club activities resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, the expenses to run Carolina DX Association have been diminished for the last two years. In recognizing that CDXA is not providing some benefits formerly provided under normal operations, nor are members receiving those benefits, Club Leadership has decided to again reduce the dues for membership renewals for 2022 for individuals, renewals for individuals and spouse, and renewals for a family membership to an amount of \$10.00 for all three of these categories. New membership applications in 2022 will be assessed at the current posted rates for the respective class of membership now in place.

Leadership has hopes that the club will be able to return to a full operational status for 2022. For 2023 renewal dues will be reinstated at former posted levels. Current services such as cluster operation, contest awards, and newsletter will continue during 2022 as usual.

Thanks to those who have already paid 2022 renewal dues.

Ray Weeks, N4APR  
Secretary and Treasurer  
The Carolina DX Association

## Election of Officers for 2022

You will soon be receiving notification of Election of Officers for 2022. On-line voting will be enabled by use of Google Forms which will allow you to vote and record your vote with but a few clicks of your mouse. Write-in options are available on the form. If you wish to offer a write-in candidate for any office, please make sure that the person you are writing in has agreed to serve in the capacity of the office for which he/she is being put forth.

## Club Log Explained by its Creator

Over the past ten years or so, this newsletter has published articles explaining the features of Club Log. If there is one thing an editor learns about the readership, it is that some people would rather *listen to* or *view* a presentation on material rather than read about it. Recognizing these preferences in its audience, the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) recently had the creator of Club Log, Michael Wells (G7VJR), prepare a short visual presentation on the fundamental features of Club Log for its on-line convention.

For an informative overview of Club Log by the person who has made it available to the amateur radio community, here is a link to the presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b5TeD4Qdv8>

For Michael's contribution to amateur radio in bringing us Club Log, he was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in 2015. Perhaps his explanation of what he wished to accomplish with his inventiveness will spur some to consider placing their logs on Club Log.

## Welcome New Members

Some new members are in our midst since the last issue of the PILEUP was published.

**Brad Hinton (K4BTH)** of Davidson sat in on one of our Zoom calls during the summer months and decided to join us. **Bill Ellington (K4MWB)** of Raleigh is another who joins our roster. We hope to have an "eyeball QSO" with both either at our weekly luncheons that have now resumed or in one of our Zoom calls.

Welcome, Brad and Bill!

## Where Do the K and A Indices Come From?

Not long after one begins to get serious about DXing, the importance of the Solar Flux Index and the A and K indices, which are measurements of the Earth's magnetic field, become well known indicators to the success of radio communications. We quickly learn that the "A" index appears to be a lot more volatile than the "K" index. With a sufficiently high Solar Flux Index and a value of K equaling 1 or 2, we find that we have a lot more fun on the bands!

Yet, many do not know just how the A and K indices are determined. Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, is a long-time writer and student of the nuances of radio propagation. In October 2003, Carl wrote an article for **World Radio** on how these helpful indices are determined. Your editor asked Carl if CDXA could reprint his article. Carl agreed and even helped out by sending us the supporting graphics to his original article. Rather than repeat the article here, the reader is referred to the January 2004 issue of **The Pileup** which is stored in the newsletter archives on the CDXA website. Those who venture to the archives will surely have a better understanding of how the A and K indices are determined. Check it out.

## The Historical One Dollar Bill

(Author Unknown—Internet Lore)

The One Dollar Bill. Take out a one dollar bill and look at it closely. The dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called "paper money" is in fact a cotton and linen blend with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It's actually material . . . and we've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. The bill is overprinted with symbols and then starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look. If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for the balance—a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's T-square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath that is the Key to the United States Treasury. That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know.

If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved. If you look at the left hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted and the western side is dark. This coun-

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try was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything. "IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776.

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet few know what the symbols mean. The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: first, it is not afraid of a storm; it is strong and is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, the eagle wears no material crown . . . and we had just broken away from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of the shield there is a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak is a banner proclaiming "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning "one nation from many people." Above the Eagle you have 13 stars representing the 13 original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the Eagle holds in its talons. It holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13<sup>th</sup> floor. But think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Inde-

pendence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above it, 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum", 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 plumes of feathers on each span of the Eagle's wing, 13 vertical bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits on the olive branch, and if you look closely, 13 arrows held in the Eagle's talon. And for minorities, the 13th Amendment denouncing slavery which came to be in 1865.

I always ask people, "Why don't you know this?" Your children don't know this and their history teachers don't know this. Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let the meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that didn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all. Tell everyone—especially your children at the dinner table tonight or your grandchildren—what is on the back of the one dollar bill and what it stands for, because nobody else will.

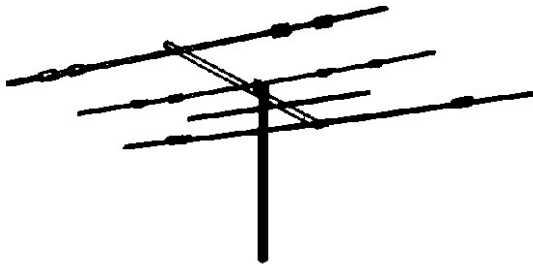
*(Your editor can't recall just who this came from when he first put it in the January 2002 issue of the Pileup, but thought it would be interesting reading for all. Having made an oral report on coins and currency in a junior high class, this editor has always paid attention to the special features of coins and currency. Take a magnifying glass to our currency sometime. It's outstanding in its beauty and detail and is a masterpiece of the engraver's art.)*



## Getting Back to Normal

For most of 2020 and the first half of 2021, because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, CDXA suspended the standing informal luncheon held at Skyland Restaurant on Wednesdays. In mid-summer, it was decided to reinstate a regular schedule in addition to a bi-weekly Zoom get-together held at the same time as the luncheon. The Zoom meeting was for those who couldn't make a long trip to Charlotte or who chose to continue some form of social distancing.

In our absence, our regular waitress, Tabitha, experienced reduced hours as an employee in the service industry. It has always been our practice to "pass the hat" at Christmas to provide thanks to her for "taking care" of us each week. In appreciation of serving us well for so long, those who attend the resumed luncheons, and even some who have not yet wandered back in, chipped in to allow us to provide a little Christmas cheer to Tabitha. Pictured below is President Paul Trotter presenting a card and some collected funds to Tabitha on December 1. It sure was nice knowing that some things are returning to normal!



## DX King for 2021

With the arrival of December, the last month of the CQ Marathon/DX King competition begins. In a year that many would bemoan as being devoid of "good DXing", the DX King competitors have proved otherwise. Even at the end of October 2021, many of those competing reported contacts with over 160 countries year to date. More than one-half of the competitors reported working more than 230 of the 346 entities that comprise the CQ Marathon list—all within the confines of the current year! All players in that same grouping had reported working at least 39 or more of the 40 CQ Zones into which our world is divided. So DX can be worked with a modicum of BIC (butt-in-chair) time.

Now it is time to remind all who have been engaged in this year's pursuit that the scores must be submitted to CQ Magazine by January 5, 2022. DO NOT DELAY. Submissions must be made electronically via the DX Marathon upload web page:

<http://www.dxmarathon.com/logupload.htm>.

Below is a record of those who've reported their scores through mid-day on December 2, 2021.

Callsign	Reported Thru	Class	Entities	Zones	Total
K4ZO	Nov	Unlim	250	40	290
K5EK	Oct	Unlim	246	40	286
W4PNY	Oct	Unlim	204	40	244
K3WA	Oct	Unlim	202	40	242
W1AJT	Nov	Unlim	200	40	240
W7DO	Nov	Unlim	197	40	237
W3GQ	Nov	Unlim	195	40	235
K7BV	Feb	Unlim	191	40	231
KZ2I	Sep	Unlim	191	40	231
K8YC	Nov	Unlim	191	39	230
N4PQX	Oct	Unlim	183	40	223
W4HG	Sep	Unlim	177	39	216
KD4RH	Oct	Unlim	161	40	201
VE3UTT	Jul	Unlim	140	39	179
AA4R	Apr	Lim	142	36	178
W3OA	Oct	Unlim	122	31	153
W4CWA	Oct	Unlim	102	30	132

### **It's been a pleasant run. . . .**

Twenty-two years ago about this time, CDXA President Bob Burton (N4PQX) asked if I would serve as CDXA's Editor of the Pileup for the coming year 2000. I had previously edited a newsletter for a small manufacturing company for a few years and for a yacht club as its Rear Commodore. The duties of an editor weren't entirely new to me, and I figured I could handle it. What I did not know at the time is I would end up producing 120 issues of the Pileup over 12 years!

In early 2006, Bill Jennings (W4UNP), CDXA member and long-time Secretary-Treasurer of INDEXA, asked if I could take on editing the INDEXA newsletter. It was only to be four issues per year—how hard could that be? That “gig” resulted in me being elected Vice President of INDEXA and continuing to edit the INDEXA newsletter until the end of 2019—producing 73 issues including three Spanish editions with translation assistance from Otis Vicens (NP4G), an INDEXA Director from Puerto Rico.

In December 2017, President Paul Trotter (AA4ZZ) asked if I would fill the empty editor's seat for CDXA for 2018. That was 32 issues ago!

My schooling is as an engineer. Many people seem surprised that an engineer can write a sentence! No doubt 11 years in management consulting practice improved my ability to communicate recommendations in written form. I was assisted in my CDXA editor's job by having material submitted to me by CDXA members from time to time. Thanks to those who helped! One of the more pleasurable editorial tasks was to talk to CDXA members far and wide as the “Roving Reporter” and being able to share their stories with our entire membership. I felt allowing our members to “meet” other CDXA members was a necessity to provide some cohesion for our widely dispersed group—even though we as DXers do have acquaintances far more widespread than many people.

As I look back at 50+ years of preparing the written word, I am amazed at how technology has improved the ability to communicate. My “paste-ups” composed on a typewriter are a far cry from the variety of fonts and inclusion of photographs and graphics available at one's fingertips today. Preparing a professional looking document, putting it in a PDF file, and delivering it via email is something we all benefit from by eliminating mailing costs and freeing funds for other uses.

There is no better way to appreciate these changes than to look back at our older documents. Fortunately, Ken Boyd (K4DXA, SK) saved almost every CDXA newsletter that had ever been produced. I am proud to say I scanned every one of those old newsletters and they now exist in the newsletter archives on the CDXA website. I repeated the process for INDEXA because CDXA's Bill Jennings and a Norwegian INDEXA Member, Arnie Kristoffersen (LA8CJ), shared my interest in preserving INDEXA's history. INDEXA also has placed its newsletters in an archive on its website.

I hope you enjoyed some or all of the 152 issues of the newsletter I prepared for CDXA. Perhaps some of you even enjoyed a few of the 71 issues of INDEXA's newsletter.

I now put down my pen hoping I left things a little better than when I arrived. It is time for me to move on.

--73 John Scott, K8YC

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### **The Back Page - What's Inside**

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